Ryley, Violet M. [Superintendent of the Dining Hall] Sept., Oct. 1915

REPLY TO BE ADDRESSED TO
THE SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE DINING HALL.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

TORONTO, CANADA September 9, 1915.

President Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:-

Yesterday you asked me whether I believed it would be possible to serve students as well as officers, if the Dining Hall serves the meals for the officers in the Residences.

This will be possible if the officers can have a definite meal hour, either before the students, or after, and all sit down at once. The upper Dining Hall seats 118, and the lower Dining Hall 32, making a total of 150 exactly.

The Dining Hall has been run with a high ideal regarding the proper feeding of students, and it would be a pity to exclude them, leaving them to board in places where their diet would not probably receive the same consideration.

It would be much more expensive to run the Dining Hall for a few than for a larger number, and the number of additional servants required to serve 1200 meals per days is less in proportion than to serve 450 or 600 meals.

Giving even the same menu as last year, the food will cost more. For example,- butter cost 24¢ per pound last year, but 29.45¢ per pound this year, making an increase on 12,000 pounds of about $600.00; eggs also will be more expensive, but meat should be about the same.

The service will certainly cost more with two sets of meals, than students only, because it will be necessary to have the officers breakfast earlier, and their dinner later, making the hours longer

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for the help. Already the servants hours are from 7 A.M. to 7.30 at night, so that I shall have to bring on more help to shorten their hours in some way.

I mention these difficulties because it will be necessary for the officers to pay a higher rate to cover the increase in cost of service, if we are to serve the same standard of meals as in the past.

Yours faithfully,

Vincent N. Ryley.

REPLY TO BE ADDRESSED TO
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OF THE DINING HALL.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

TORONTO, CANADA October 13, 1915.

President Falconer,

University of Toronto,

Dear Mr. President:-

In answer to the letter you received from Mrs. Griffith Thomas, I wish to state that I feel certain that Mrs. Thomas is under a wrong impression regarding the treatment received by employees of the University Dining Hall.

Due purely to a clerical error, Mr. Mee was paid for five days instead of six, but this was a clerical error only, and had he said when he received his pay, "This is a mistake, I was here six days", it would have been rectified at once. Regarding remuneration for the time spent that morning, I wish to state that Mr. Mee was due at the Dining Hall at seven o'clock sharp, but he did not arrive until twenty minutes to eight, had his own breakfast, served the students' breakfast and left without giving a moment's notice. He did not do one and a half hours work and his breakfast is worth as much as the time he spent at the Dining Hall that morning.

If Mr. Mee will call at the Bursar's Office he will find his salary for the sixth day awaiting him.

Regarding the other points that Mrs. Thomas has raised, I wish to state that I have advertised quite frequently for men, because nine of the men who were with me last Winter are serving in the Army Overseas, and six are still on the C.P.R. boats on the Great Lakes, and I find that the War has naturally made unmarried men, who are competent, much scarcer, but if married men accept these positions at $24.00 and

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$25.00 per month, (plus uniforms and board), they do it entirely of their own accord, and some of them are very glad indeed to have steady work and comfortable surroundings for the Winter.

Mrs.Thomas states that the hours of work are too long, Sunday work is demanded and the waiters are given but ten to twenty minutes in which to eat their meals. -- The hours are not longer than in other institutions of this class and shorter than in many. Sunday on duty all day always is rewarded by two half days during the next six days, (instead of one half day). All the men detained on duty the Sunday referred to were given an extra half day off duty last week. Unfortunately students will eat seven days in the week instead of six; so each third Sunday it is usually a man's lot to be on duty for all three meals with but an hour or two off duty during the afternoon, but he knows this when he is engaged, and should not come unless prepared to do so. All employees receive 25 minutes for their meals three times a day and Mr. Mee's statement is not true, that the waiters are hurried at meals.

Mrs. Thomas speaks as though the men at the Dining Hall blame the University. -- This is the first I have heard of any general dissatisfaction existing. In fact, it does not exist to any extent, or I would hear of it immediately from my old and thoroughly loyal employees. The relation between the employees and myself is most cordial, otherwise, how can you explain how it happens that all my head positions, except that of head waitress, (she married in September after three years service here), are filled by old employees, who return although they are aware that the

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University only gives steady employment for eight months in the year, whereas they could easily secure all year employment if they considered it to their advantage. They come to me knowing of this handicap, as you will notice by the following list,-

Head Cook,	is in her 4th year.
Second Cook	" " his 3rd "
Third Cook	" " " 2nd "
Head Waiter	" " " 3rd "
1 Pantry Maid	" " her 3rd "
1 Pantry Man	" " his 3rd "
3 Maids	are " their 2nd "
3 Men	are " " 2nd "

Thus you will see that twelve out of my present staff of twenty-nine are old employees and all of these are thoroughly capable people who could easily secure other positions. Several of the nine who have enlisted were old employees.

The Dining Hall is not commercial in any sense and it is not run for profit, but with the ideal of feeding the students as well as possible and still give justice to all employees, who receive exactly the same food as the students, (three course meals) and the best salaries possible without increasing the price of board to the students, (many of whom are keeping themselves through College).

Seeing that Mrs. Griffith Thomas has the interest of the University so much at heart, I will be pleased to take her through the Dining Hall and explain the system if she can spare the time to call.

Most respectfully,

Vincent H. Ryley.